

2008 NJCL Certamen Championships

VIRGINIA STATE TEAM TRYOUTS

Now that you've (hopefully) requested your National JCL Convention packets, it's time to think about tryouts for the Virginia state certamen teams which will be competing at NJCL this summer. **We will be holding tryouts for these teams on Saturday, April 26 at Flint Hill School (EAST Campus) in Oakton, Virginia. Tryouts will begin at 10:00 AM sharp and end by 1:00 PM.**

The Certamen competition at NJCL is a very serious event. Very few teams show up without preparation, and Virginia has a great legacy of strong teams, including last year's National championship teams on the Novice and Intermediate Level. **Students wishing to play certamen at NJCL will be expected to devote considerable time and effort during the summer to study and practice (see below). During convention all players will be expected to make certamen their top priority; attendance at all practices and rounds is absolutely mandatory.**

The NJCL Certamen National Championship consists of three levels of competition: **Novice Level** (open to students currently in Latin ½ to 1), **Intermediate Level** (open to students in Latin II), **Advanced Level** (Latin III and up). **This year, only positions on the Intermediate and Novice levels will be open to tryouts.** The Advanced team has already been selected and will instead hold a practice during tryouts. Other competitive certamen players in Latin III and up who wish to practice as an "Advanced-Team-in-Training" and play as a "Wild Card" this year at convention should also attend tryouts. Tryout rounds will consist of up to 50 toss-up questions for each category: Grammar/Language, Mythology, History (with Literature on the Advanced Level), and All-Around (including Culture). Students may try out for as many categories in their level as they wish.

At the National JCL Convention, only four players will play in any given round. The tryouts are designed to find the best 4 to 8 players in the state on each level, who will comprise the state team. The "winners" of the tryouts will be the presumptive "starting four" for NJCL convention, but a process for challenges will allow supporting players to challenge for the starting position during the summer. Of course, the decision on who plays in any given round resides solely within the discretion of the coaching staff at the Convention, as the goal will be to play the best and most competitive team rather than ensure equal participation.

Students wishing to try out for any team must e-mail their intent to Howard Chang (hchang@flinthill.org) by Wednesday, April 23rd. Please include in your e-mail the following information: Your name, phone number, email, school, sponsor, sponsor's email, and the level and position(s) for which you wish to try out. Students who do not give notification of intention to try out may not participate in the tryouts on April 23rd.

Summer Study and Practices:

Formal practices and study sessions will be offered to team members at Flint Hill School during the weekdays of July 14 – 25, with perhaps some weekend sessions as well. Before that time, players need to study the NJCL sources for their subject tests and certamen categories (see the NJCL convention "White Book" for details).